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THE TABLET.—No. XXXVII.

(CONTINUATION.)

"Innumerable causes conspire to divide and agitate the public mind."

IF some intelligent being, unacquainted with human affairs, and yet capable of forming definite ideas from language, were to hear the conversation of a promiscuous croud of people, he would have no conception that they were inhabitants of the same world, or that they had any similarity of principles or feelings. While one man would represent to him, a very virtuous and flourishing state of society, another would exhibit only the dark shades of the picture, and lead him to imagine that he had entered upon a scene of discord, misery and vice.

After some experience however he would find out, that these contradictory mortals, who talked so differently, approached nearer to each other in views and sentiments, than appearances indicated. A great part of the clamours of one set of men, and the applauses of another, are mere sayings of course, that are uttered without any determinate meaning. The good humored and fortunate among mankind represent the community better than it is; and the morose and ill-fated run into the contrary extreme. One praises the world and the other condemns it, pretty much according to the fare they have met with, in their passage through it. If we could analyze the motives from which they act, and try their conduct by any intrinsic standard, we should not find their real intentions so unlike as their words. He who reprobates the government is not perhaps its enemy, and he who flatters it, is not always its friend.

The other evening, I was in company, where the conversation turned upon politics. It happened as is usual in such companies, that two or three men did most of the speaking. The two who distinguished themselves on the occasion were PLACIDUS and IGNATIUS. There seemed to be a difference of opinion respecting the public measures of the day. IGNATIUS spoke like a man of much bitterness of spirit, and nothing escaped the darts of his spleen and severity. The new constitution, he said, was only a scheme of the great and artful to ensnare, the common people, and gradually take away their liberties. As soon as the planners of it had provided well for themselves and friends, we should hear no more about the public welfare. The only struggle then will be, who shall get the most, and perform the least.

PLACIDUS had quite another way of thinking. He appeared satisfied that the framers of the Constitution had the liberties and happiness of the community at heart. Great and small are all embarked in the same bottom, and must stand or fall together. The principles on which the government is established are not unfavorable to the rights of man, and we shall continue to be blessed with able and virtuous rulers. He disapproved of the ill-nature discovered by his neighbour, and said it originated only in jealousy. But IGNATIUS was the most plausible, and his remarks gained most attention. I have observed him several times in the streets, and he generally has a crowd of people about him, whom he will poison with his envy and discontent, unless they are taught to be on their guard against his insinuations and complaints.

It would be a good rule for every individual, when he hears private or public men slandered or condemned, to enquire into the character of the persons who thus find fault. I took this method, and am now proof against the secret whispers, or open clamours of IGNATIUS. He is not a man of much property, and therefore has little to fear from public commotion. He does not possess considerable knowledge, and therefore can be no accurate judge of political propriety. He has no friends in important offices, and therefore is not without some envy and prejudice. I am told that IGNATIUS will not utter palpable falshoods, and that in his private concerns, he observes some honesty and fairness. But he is constantly out of temper with public affairs, and endeavors to make his neighbours as restless and petulent as himself. He wishes to save some appearance of character, and this makes him the more dangerous. In short he is the perpetual marplot of men, who are trying to lead a quiet, contented life.

The tranquility of the public is liable to a thousand causes of interruption. It must be supposed that the rulers of the people participate of the same frailties and imperfections, as the people themselves possess. IGNATIUS avails himself of all little mistakes and inadvertencies, and represents them in glaring colors, while he artfully conceals all meritorious actions. Jealousy is so irritable a spring of the soul, that such men, keep the public mind in fluctuation and alarm. The friends of good order and virtue should watch and counteract all their attempts.

If people would use the same common sense in judging of public measures, as they do in their common concerns, these clamorous men would have no influence.

One must conclude that the virtuous feelings are mild and conciliating, and that bustle, and a captious disposition are no pledges of patriotism. Our government has commenced in prosperity, and there are no special circumstances which at present threaten to disturb it. But as our citizens are composed of the same ingredients as other people, it is well to anticipate the sources of disquietude and complaint, from which no portion of the human race can be long exempted.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER.

WEIGHTS.

THE grain is the basis of the weights used in Europe; and a pound weight is generally there used. Divisions of pounds and ounces into fourths, &c. are inconvenient fractions that accident seems to have produced, and habits have continued among the old nations; but which America is in the finest situation to avoid, and to give a preference to the more simple and harmonious divisions in tens.

The French have their pound of 16 ounces, or 2 marcs; the marc being equal to 8 ounces; the ounce 8 gross; the gross 3 penny weights; the penny weight 24 grains: with those are weighed gold, and other fine articles. Another pound weight they have for less valuable commodities: it is divided into half pounds; the half pound into quarters; the quarter into eights; the eighths into 2 ounces; and the ounce into half ounces.

The Engish have their grains, scruples, drams, ounces, pounds, quarters, quintals, and tuns. Their pounds is divided into 4ths, 3ds &c. as are their ounces. Tables of their weights follow:

"A table of the pound *troy* and its parts; by "which gold, silver, jewels amber, bread, *corn*, "liquors, &c. are weighed; and by which the "proportion of gravity in philosophical experi"ments is usually tried; as of water to quick"silver, gold to silver," &c. according to English writers: yet, that avoirdupois (their large weight) is sometimes used in these cases, the tables of specific gravity in Robertson's mensuration, Ferguson's lectures, the late Dispensatories, &c. and corn, we know, is weighed by avoirdupois—not by troy weight.

Grains.			
24	Pennyweight.		
480	20	Ounces.	
5760	240	12	Pounds.

"A table of such parts of a pound troy, as "apothecaries use; commonly called *Apothecaries* weight."

Grains.				
20	Scruple.			
60	3	Dram.		
480	24	8	Ounce.	
5760	288	96	12	Pound.

"A table of the pound called Avoirdupois, and "its parts; by which are weighed drugs, but"ter, meat, grocery, metals, &c.

Drams.					
16	oz.				
256	16	lb.	{ This lb. contains 7000 grains.		
7168	448	28	qr		
28672	1792	112	4	cwt.	
573440	35840	2240	80	20	tun.

These are the weights that have hitherto served us in America, *complex* as they are; and the tables of them are here given, that we may the better see how preferable are the weights now to be proposed. The denominations of troy, apothecaries and avoirdupois pounds, are dropt. One only weight, with its parts, is retained; which is the American pound. Excepting grains and half tuns, all run in tens. The grains begin the table, with 70 to the net weight, called a prime (or what you please.) The quantity of the grain is not to be altered from what it always was, and the mint pound is most conveniently to be continued the same as the old common pound of 7000 grains.

A Table of Weights, proposed, for the United States of America:

Grains						
70	Prime.	The first that runs into tens.				
700	10	Ounce.				
7000	100	10	Pound.			
70000	1000	100	10	Demi'core.		
700000	10000	1000	100	10	Cwt.	
7000000	100000	10000	1000	100	10	half tun.

The grain, the prime, the ounce and the pound, will be used for gold and fine things. Course goods will require nothing below ounces. Work the sums in whole numbers; when dots will divide the quotient into pounds, ounces, &c. If you have the quantities already divided, write or read the sum without dots, for reducing them to suttle weight; thus:

2C. 2ds. 2lbs. 2oz. are 2222 oz. and 2222 oz. are 2C. 2ds. 2lbs, 2oz.

10

22
10
222
10
2222 Proof.

It is not meant but that the common fractions may be used at pleasure of individuals: but, the public standard will hold out more commodious fractions, which the people will soon prefer to the old fractions in common use.

	H. t.	C.	ds.	lbs.	oz.
Add	2	8	6	4	6
	4	2	4	6	3
	7	1	1	0	9

What is the suttle? Omit the dots: it is 71109 oz. or in lbs. 7110lbs. 9 oz.

	ds.	lbs.	oz.	ds.	lbs.
Multiply	6	4	6	by 5	2
		5	2		
		1292			
		3230			
		33590			

Which, being dotted off, makes 33c. 5ds. 9lb. 2oz.

Divide by 5ds. 2lb.) 33.5.9.2 (646; that is 6ds. 4lbs. 6oz.

The whole operation in addition; multiplication and division, is exactly as if the sums were in whole numbers. If the dots confuse any one who is unacquainted with decimal operations, I advise that he write the figures down without dots, thus: 2h.t. 8C. 6ds. 4lbs. 6oz. are, without dots, 28646, that is so much suttle in the lowest denomination of the sum, which here is ounces: then say:

28646 oz.
42463

71109

This total is divided into several denominations wanted, by the application of dots; beginning with the unit: 71C. 1ds. 0lbs. 9oz. So in division 52)33592(646: all which, when dotted off, is thus, 5ds. 2lb.)33C. 5ds. 9lb. 2oz.(6ds. 4lb. 6oz.

I hope to be excused for these minute observations, as they are designed to reconcile those who are not informed in such arithmetical operations. Any person who can read sums in figures, can change the higher weights into lower, or lower into higher, by the use of dots, applied or withdrawn: always dotting off from the right hand to the left.

The pound is the most convenient for an account column. Its parts in the same column, divided off by a dot, are ounces, thus: 48h.t. 6C. 4ds. 2lb. 6oz. are carried into the account column 48642lbs. 6oz. In my next I intend sending you a treatise on the bushel measure.

NEW-YORK, AUGUST 17.

The following is an account of the elevation of the Mercury, in a Thermometer accurately graduated according to Farenheit's scale, in this city.

ON the 7th inst. the Mercury stood at 80° at two o'clock, P. M.

On the 8th ditto	80 ditto.
9th ditto	82 ditto.
10th ditto	84 ditto.
11th ditto	85 ditto.
12th ditto	85 ditto.
13th ditto	83 ditto.
14th ditto	88 ditto.
15th ditto	85 ditto.
16th ditto	84 ditto.

THE BOW.

AN African Prince ſubdued in battle, capitulated for his bow and quiver—a bauble bought his life. A Britiſh merchant ſent him to South-Carolina, where he was uſed as a ſlave. A placid countenance, and ſubmiſſive manners, marked his reſignation; and preſerved him in all ſituations, the poſſeſſion of his arms—the only companions he had left—the ſole objects of his affections. His ſtatelineſs and ſtrength recommended him to Colonel Mott, a humane maſter, in whoſe ſervice he died, in ſtedfaſt faith of a certain reſurrection in his native ſtate.

The bow and quiver were preſerved as relicts of a faithful ſlave, in the Colonel's family, who gratefully remember the ſervices, the fortitude, and the fidelity of the truſty, the gentle IAMBO.

In the campaign of 1781, the widow of Colonel Mott, (who died a patriot) was baniſhed from her houſe, on the river Congaree, then fortified by a Britiſh garriſon; the garriſon was beſieged by a ſmall detachment from the American army, whoſe approaches were ſoon within bow-ſhot. The widow, who lived in a cottage in ſight of the fort, was informed that the preſervation of her houſe was the only impediment to its reduction—and ſhe was informed of the expedients propoſed.—Here, ſaid ſhe, (preſenting the African bow and quiver) are the materials—Iambo never uſed theſe arrows and I fear they are poiſoned; uſe them not, therefore, even againſt your enemies—but take the bow, any arrow will waft a match. Spare not the houſe, ſo you expel the foe. The blazing roof produced ſubmiſſion—the Britons dropped their arms—the Americans entered the houſe, and both joined to extinguiſh the flames.

The misfortunes of a Prince, and the heroiſm of a lady, are not uncommon—the novelty is the Bow—a ſtem of genuine bamboo—which, deſtined for the defence of Liberty in Africa, ſerved the ſame cauſe in America, was preſerved by an officer of the patriot army—preſented to Mr. PEALE, and is now depoſited in his MUSEUM.

LONDON, MAY 28.

BY EXPRESS FROM PARIS.

This expreſs contains an account of the debates of the meeting of the States-General. The reſult is, that the clergy are ſagacious and moderate, that the commons are ſtartled at the view of their own importance, and only want the experience of a people already free, to give them a dextrous command of their rights as ſubjects. All however, ſeem to agree in a poſition, once laid down by a celebrated writer of our own—a poſition which cannot too often be repeated, or written in letters too large or conſpicuous, "THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE."

The nobility evidently proceeded ſtep by ſtep, with an ungracious diſtruſt, in order to preſerve thoſe preferences which had been already given in their favour. Mobs have been formed in ſome places, and the townſmen have been obliged to protect their villages from fire; one of their officers ſpeaks thus: "We arrived with a guard, and were received by 80,000 people in confuſion of tears and applauſe, clapping their hands, and crying, 'God ſave the king and Monſieur Caraman; this was indeed a triumphal entry; never was a people more affectionate and ſubmiſſive. The General had left the army without, and only entered the city with his two aid-du-camps.

We will venture to add to the above, with that precaution which diſtinguiſhes our paper, that the dauphin of France is not yet dead, however ſtrongly it may have been reported.

On the 13th inſtant the Sultan, attended by all the Grandees, went on horſeback to the moſque of Elub, where the ceremony of girding on the Imperial Cimitar was performed with the uſual pomp, amidſt a great concourſe of people. In the proceſſion from the ſeraglio through the city, a ſum of money to the amount of fifteen thouſand pounds in ſmall ſilver pieces, loaded on ten mules, was thrown amongſt the populace; and what has not always been the caſe on ſimilar occaſions, no one loſt his life in the ſcramble. His highneſs returned by water down the harbour, and was ſaluted by all the ſhips as well Chriſtians as Turks. The firſt entertainment given by the ſultan was a tournament, as more conſiſtent in time of war than muſic and dancing.

JUNE 7. SELIM the third, the preſent Grand Seignior, has had an education very different from that of his predeceſſors, for which he was indebted to his late uncle; he ſpeaks French and Italian decently, and has read the beſt works in both languages; but he is more particularly acquainted with European tactics, which he was taught by a French officer of great ability. He has often been heard to declare that it was the duty of the Emperor of the Turks, to be at the head of his army, and from thence it is concluded, that he will not derogate from the Ottoman race.

JUNE 8. An unexpected change in the miniſtry has taken place; Lord Sydney has retired from the office of ſecretary of ſtate for the home department. He attended the council yeſterday at Kew palace, where he reſigned. His lordſhip is appointed one of the chief juſtices, in Eyre, the profits of which are reckoned at 3006 a year.

Mr. Grenville, the ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, appointed to lord Sydney's place, yeſterday acted in that capacity. Mr. Henry Addington, member for the Devizes is choſen ſpeaker.

Mr. Richard Fold, of Birmingham, has very lately preſented to the Society of Arts, an eſſay, in which he points out a method, demonſtrated by a variety of ſucceſsful experiments, that horſes may be inoculated for the ſtrangles, with the ſame certainty of ſucceſs that the human ſpecies are for the ſmall-pox

We are ſorry to inform our readers, that laſt night the beautiful edifice of the opera houſe was burnt to the ground. We happened to be preſent when the fire burſt out, and muſt declare that we never ſaw any thing comparable to the rapidity with which it ſpread itſelf. It broke forth from the three domes of the roof, at one and the ſame inſtant, and in leſs than three minutes the whole building was an entire flame; there were neither water nor firemen to interrupt its progreſs, and in a quarter of an hour the whole was totally demoliſhed.

The flames ſpread to the adjoining houſes, ſeven of which were deſtroyed, and the fire reached to the entrance into Pall-mall, but did not go up the Haymarket.

Extract of a letter from Conſtantinople, dated April 20.

"All the propoſitions for peace, renewed under the preſent reign by the two courts of Bourbon, have been rejected, the Sultan having declared that he has taken an oath to re-conquer the Crimea, ſo that without the preliminary reſtitution of that peninſula all propoſals are vain."

PARIS, JUNE 4.

His royal higneſs the dauphin died between twelve and one o'clock this morning, in the eighth year of his age, to the great grief of their moſt Chriſtian majeſties and the royal family.

The dauphin was in his eighth year; for four of which he has been almoſt conſtantly afflicted with diſeaſes which baffled the art of the firſt phyſicians, and have now terminated in his diſſolution. His royal highneſs's remains will be interred in the burying place of the Kings of France, in the church of Notre Dame in Paris. All the public places of amuſement are ſhut up, and will remain ſo till after his burial. The Duc de Normandie, the now only ſon of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, is a fine child about five years old, and bids fair to become in due time the king of France.

The preſent heir apparent of the crown of France, and Maria Thereſe Charlotte, born December 19, 1778, are the only remaining children of their Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties.

NEWYORK.

SKETCH OF PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

In the HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES *of the* UNITED STATES.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1789.

Sketch of the Debate on Amendments to the Conſtitution.

In COMMITTEE of the whole.—The firſt article of the report being read, Mr. GERRY roſe and objected to the ſentence, "*Government being intended for the benefit of the people.*"

THIS, ſaid he, holds up an idea, that all government is intended for the benefit of the people: This is not true—for if we examine, we ſhall find that not one government in fifty, is conſtituted upon this principle. Moſt of the governments, ancient or modern, owed their exiſtence to either fraud, force or accident, and are deſigned for the purpoſes of oppreſſion and perſonal ambition. I wiſh to have nothing go out from this body as a maxim, which is not true in fact. He moved to amend the clauſe by inſerting the words "of right." This motion was negatived.

Mr. TUCKER obſerved, that the preamble is no part of the Conſtitution: The object is to amend the Conſtitution; The preamble is no more a part of it, than the letter of the Preſident which is annexed to the Inſtrument—and I cannot ſee that the committee has any thing to do with it.

Mr. SUMPTER moved that the conſideration of the preamble ſhould be poſtponed till the whole amendments are gone through, and then we ſhall know what introduction may be proper.

Mr. SMITH, (S. C.) obſerved, that the amendments propoſed to the preamble, had been recommended by three States, which renders it proper.

Mr. PAGE ſaid, that in his opinion the original preamble will not be altered for the better, by this amendment, and therefore I hope it will remain as it is.

Mr. SHERMAN ſaid he was ſatisfied with the original clauſe: If the Conſtitution was a grant from another power it would be proper; but as the right is a natural and unalienable right, and inherent in the people, it is quite unneceſſary to give any reaſons for forming the Conſtitution It is the act of their own ſovereign will. The words "WE THE PEOPLE" contain in themſelves the principle fully, and the alteration propoſed will injure the preamble.

Mr. MADISON obſerved, that the propoſed amendment is a truth, and I conceive there is a propriety in inſerting it; beſides ſeveral of the States have thought proper to mention the preamble in their ratifications, which renders it proper to be attended to. I can ſee no difficulty in aſſociating the amendment with the preamble, without injuring the beauty or ſenſe of the paragraph: The principle it is acknowledged on all hands is ſelf evident, and can derive no force from this expreſſion, ſtill for the reaſon before ſuggeſted it may be prudent to inſert it.

The queſtion on this amendment was carried in the affirmative.

Second amendment: From art. 1, ſec. II, par. 3, ſtrike out all between the word "direct" and "until ſuch," and inſtead thereof, inſert "*after the firſt enumeration there ſhall be one repreſentative for every thirty thouſand, until the number ſhall amount to one hundred; after which, the proportion ſhall be ſo regulated by Congreſs, that the number of repreſentatives ſhall never be leſs than one hundred, nor more than one hundred and ſeventy five; but each ſtate ſhall always have at leaſt one repreſentative.*"

Mr. VINING: The duty which I owe to my conſtituents—my anxiety on the ſubject of amendments, and the juſtice, propriety, and policy of the meaſure, lead me to propoſe, after the words, "one hundred and ſeventy-five," to inſert theſe words; "*that where the number of inhabitants of any particular State, amounts to 45000, they ſhall be entitled to two repreſentatives.*" This was negatived without a diviſion.

Mr. AMES moved, that the word "thirty" ſhould be ſtruck out, and *forty* inſerted—ſo that the ratio of repreſentation ſhould be one for forty thouſand. I am induced, ſaid he, to make this motion, becauſe I think the preſent number ſufficiently large for the purpoſe of legiſlation—that number which is found adequate to the object is to be preſered: The people it is preſumed are univerſally ſatisfied with the preſent number; which falls ſhort of what would, on this propoſition, actually conſtitute the houſe, upon an exact apportionment upon the preſent ſuppoſed number of inhabitants: Experience has taught, that all the information neceſſary, both of a general and local nature, may be found in a body not more numerous than the preſent legiſlature: The expence of a numerous repreſentation would ſoon become diſſatisfactory to the people, and be conſidered as an intolerable burden: The ratio of one to every 30000 will ſwell the repreſentation to an enormous maſs, whoſe ſupport will be inſufferable, and whoſe deliberations will be impracticable: The preſent population will on the firſt cenſus produce upwards of 100—the augmentation will be very rapid: It therefore appears proper to fix the proportion immediately, to prevent theſe evils. By enlarging the repreſentation, we leſſen the chance of ſelecting the moſt competent characters, and of concentering the wiſdom and abilities of the United States, which alone can ſupport the importance and dignity of that branch in which the people are more peculiarly intereſted: The reſponſibility of any aſſembly, is in proportion to the number: In large repreſentations the weight, the conſequence, and reſponſibility of individuals is diminiſhed. Numerous repreſentations engender parties, are ſubject to peculiar fermentations, delay the public buſineſs, and by encreaſing the expence, lead the people to conſider government rather a curſe than a bleſſing. Tho parties may promote the public good, they often give riſe to very alarming evils. Whether it is poſſible ſo to conſtitute a popular aſſembly as to baniſh or reſtrain to any conſiderable degree, a ſpirit of faction, is an important enquiry. This however is certain, that in proportion as the aſſembly is encreaſed, the opportunity for intrigue and cabal, to influence weak and unſuſpicious characters, and to attach them to the views of ambitious men, is encreaſed. It may alſo be obſerved, that reſponſibility is in ſome proportion to the numbers repreſented. A repreſentative of a large body of people will feel in a higher degree the weight of the charge he undertakes, and will thereby be more intereſted to ſupport a virtuous fame, and redouble his exertions for the public good.

The people are not anxious to have a repreſentation for every 30000: This was not the object originally in view by thoſe who propoſed this amendmeut; their intention was to fix a limitation, ſo that the repreſentation ſhould not be diminiſhed by Congreſs in any future time, below the point of ſecurity—their object was certainly not augmentation, for in proportion as the people multiply, the repreſentation will encreaſe, and their influence will be diminiſhed; this will leſſen the controul of the people over them; increaſing the number therefore beyond certain limits will expoſe the government to factions, will leſſen the agency of the underſtanding, and augment that of the paſſions. Improper characters will more eaſily get elected. The number of ſuitable perſons is not great in any country, of thoſe, many will be indiſpoſed to ſerve. The United States has as great a proportion of competent abilities perhaps as any country whatever. If however the repreſentative body is unduly enlarged, the probability of inferior candidates being elected will riſe. It has been aſſerted that ſo large a territory as the United States contain cannot remain united under one government, even if the adminiſtration was entruſted to men of conſummate abilities, and incorruptible virtue; but this idea will receive additional force, if the chance of different characters being called to the adminiſtration is encreaſed.

Mr. AMES added many other obſervations, and concluded by ſaying, that from the foregoing reflections upon the ſubject, he was led to make the motion, conceiving it to be conſonant to the ideas of the people, and that it would conduce to the dignity and ſecurity of the government, and the preſervation of the rights, and privileges of the people.

Mr. MADISON ſaid, he thought differently from the gentleman laſt ſpeaking: The deſign of the amendments is to conciliate the minds of the people to the government—prudence requires that the opinion of thoſe States who have propoſed this important amendment ſhould be attended to. It is a fact that ſome States have propoſed an encreaſe of the number—ſeveral have mentioned 200—this renders it probable that they would not be ſatisfied with a leſs number. I do not think it neceſſary at this time to go into an accurate inveſtigation of the advantages or diſadvantages of a numerous repreſentation; beyond a certain rule, the number might be inconvenient; that point is a matter of uncertainty. It is true that numerous bodies are liable to ſome abuſes, but large aſſemblies are not ſo ſubject to corruption as ſmaller ones: If we fix the ratio at one for forty thouſand, it will not prevent the abuſes the gentleman apprehends, for before the ſecond cenſus ſhall be taken, it is probable that the population will be ſo encreaſed, as to make the repreſentative body very large; there is therefore, with reſpect to futurity, but little choice between one ratio, or the other. I think it will be beſt to retain the 30000, as attended with the leaſt difficulty—it is the proportion contemplated by the States, and I hope therefore that this part of the report will be adopted.

Mr. SEDGWICK ſtated ſome particulars reſpecting inſtructions from the Commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts, and ſaid he hoped the article in the report of the committee would be adopted.

Mr. GERRY alſo replied to Mr. Ames: He controverted his calculations, and enforced the neceſſity of an ample and adequate repreſentation. He obſerved, that the gentleman had ſaid, "encreaſing the number leſſens the importance of the members;" but Sir, ſaid Mr. Gerry, are we, in order to preſerve our own dignity and importance, to ſacrifice the liberties of the people? He aſſerted that ſmall aſſemblies are more liable to fermentation than large; large repreſentative aſſemblies will commonly be compoſed of a conſiderable proportion of the yeomanry of the country, who are found to be more diſpaſſionate than perſons elected from elevated walks of life.

Mr. LIVERMORE was oppoſed to the motion for 40000.

Mr. AMES roſe to juſtify the motives which induced him to make the motion: He made a copious reply, and among other obſervations ſaid, that he had no idea of attempting any alterations of the Conſtitution which would injure or weaken the ſyſtem: The amendments it is to be expected will improve and make it better; this he conceived would be the caſe by the alteration he propoſed.

Mr. JACKSON ſaid, that what he had expected, had taken place. It is now propoſed, by way of amendment to the Conſtitution, to reſtrict the number of the repreſentative body to one for every 40000 inhabitants. In ſupport of the argument, the gentleman ſays, that in a ſmall aſſembly the abilities of the beſt men may be brought as it were to a focus: If this argument has any weight in it, why not truſt one perſon? One repreſentative to 30000 has been complained of—one to 40000 would certainly be leſs competent to doing juſtice to his conſtituents. The motion for ſtriking out 30000, in order to inſert 40000, was negatived.

Mr. SEDGWICK moved, that the words "one hundred and ſeventy-five" ſhould be ſtruck out, and *two hundred* inſerted.

Mr. SHERMAN objected to this motion: He ſaid that was the conſtitution now to be formed, he ſhould be for one repreſentative to every 40000 inhabitants, inſtead of 30000,—and upon that principle I was going to move, ſaid he, that 175 be ſtruck out, in order to inſert a leſs number.

The representations of several of the states are too large, and have been justly complained of; the rights of the people are less secure in a large, than in a small assembly: The great object is information; and this may be acquired by a small number, and to better purpose than by a large.

It has been said that a future legislature will not encrease the number, should it be found necessary: If that supposition is true, the present house will not agree to this motion, unless we suppose that a future house will be less patriotic than the present: as to the largeness of the number being a security against corruption, I do not think it is; the British house of commons consists of upwards of 500 members, and yet money enough has always been found to corrupt a sufficient number for the minister's purpose.

MR. MADISON observed that as the number 200 had been mentioned in the ratifications of several of the states and no substantial reason has been assigned why their expectation should not be complied with, it is reasonable to adopt this motion: Not, said he, that I would have the house give up their own judgement, when any substantial reason to the contrary is offered.

MR. LAURANCE, MR. GERRY, MR. LIVERMORE, MR. SEDGWICK, MR. PAGE, MR. TUCKER, and MR. STONE, severally spoke upon this motion—which was finally carried in the affirmative——The paragraph as amended was agreed to by the committee.

The third amendment is "Art. 1, Sec. 2. Par. 3—Strike out all between the words "direct" and "until such," and instead thereof, insert *but no law varying the compensation, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened. The members.*"

This clause was debated for a short time, and then the question being taken, it was carried.

MR. LEONARD had leave of absence for one month.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1789.

In committee of the whole, on amendments to the constitution—the fourth amendment under consideration; viz. Art. 1. Sec. 9, between Par. 2 and 3 insert "*no religion shall be established by law, nor shall the equal rights of conscience be infringed.*"

Mr. SYLVESTER said he doubted the propriety of the mode of expression used in this paragraph; he thought it was liable to a construction different from what was intended by the committee

MR. SHERMAN. It appears to me best that this article should be omitted intirely: Congress has no power to make any religious establishments, it is therefore unnecessary.

Mr. CARROL, Mr. HUNTINGTON, Mr. MADDISON, and Mr. LIVERMORE made some observations: The last proposed that the words should be struck out to substitute these words, "*Congress shall make no laws touching religion or the rights of conscience.*

The question on this motion was carried.

Fifth amendment. *The freedom of speech, and of the press, and of the rights of the people peaceably to assemble and consult for their common good, and to apply to government for the redress of grievances shall not be infringed.*

Mr. SEDGWICK moved to strike out the words "assemble and" This is a self evident unalienable right of the people, said he, and it does appear to me below the dignity of this house, to insert such things in the constitution. The right will be as fully recognized if the words are struck out, as if they were retained: For if the people may converse, they must meet *for* the purpose.

This motion was opposed by Mr. GERRY, Mr, PAGE, Mr. VINING and Mr. HARTLY; and the question being taken it was negatived.

MR. TUCKER moved to insert these words, *to instruct their representatives.* This produced a long debate.

Mr. HARTLEY. I could wish, Mr. chairman, that these words had not been proposed. Representatives ought to possess the confidence of their constituents; they ought to rely on their honour and integrity. The practice of instructing representatives may be attended with danger; we have seen it attended with bad consequences; it is commonly resorted to for party purposes, and when the passions are up. It is a right, which even in England is considered a problematical. The right of instructing is liable to great abuses; it will generally be exercised in times of popular commotion; and these instructions will rather express the prejudices of party, than the dictates of reason and policy. I have known, Sir, so many evils arise from adopting the popular opinion of the moment, that I hope this government will be guarded against such an influence; and wish the words may not be inserted.

Mr. PAGE was in favour of the motion- He said, that the right may well be doubted in a monarchy; but in a government instituted for the sole purpose of guarding the rights of the people, it appears to me to be proper.

Mr. CLYMER: I hope, Sir, the clause will not be adopted, for if it is, we we must go further, and say, that the representatives are *bound* by the instructions, which is a most dangerous principle, and a destructive of all ideas of an independent and deliberative body.

Mr. SHERMAN said, these words had a tendency to mislead the people, by conveying an idea that they had a right to controul the debates of the federal legislature. Instructions cannot be considered as a proper rule for a representative to form his conduct by; they cannot be adequate to the purpose for which he is delegated. He is to consult the good of the whole: Should instructions therefore coincide with his ideas of the common good, they would be unnecessary: If they were contrary, he would be bound by every principle of justice to disregard them.

Mr. JACKSON opposed the motion: He said this was a dangerous article, as its natural tendency is to divide the house into factions: He then adverted to the absurdities and inconsistencies which would be involved in adopting the measure.

Mr. GERRY supported the motion: He observed, that to suppose we cannot be instructed, is to suppose that we are perfect: The power of instruction is in my opinion essential to check an administration which should be guilty of abuses: No one will deny that these may not happen: To deny the people this right is to arrogate to ourselves more wisdom than the whole body of the people possess.—I contend, Sir, that our constituents have not only a right to instruct, but to *bind* this legislature—It has been contended by the friends to the constitution, that the people are sovereign; if so it involves an absurdity to suppose that they cannot, not only instruct, but controul the house: Debates may create factions, as well as instructions: We cannot be too well informed; this is the best method of obtaining information, and I hope we shall never shut our ears against that information which is to be derived from the voice of the people.

Mr. MADISON observed, that the existence of this right is at least doubtful.—I wish that the amendments may consist of an enumeration of simple and acknowledged principles: The insertion of propositions that are of a doubtful nature, will have a tendency to prejudice the whole system of amendments: The right now suggested is doubtful, and will be so considered by many of the States: In some respects the declaration of this right may be true, in others it is false: If we mean nothing more by it than this, that the people have a right to give advice or express their sentiments and wishes it is true; but still unnecessary, as such a right is already recognized: The press shall be free, and the people shall have the same freedom of speech and petitioning: but if it is meant that the representatives are to be bound by these instructions, the principle is false: Suppose a representative is instructed to do what is contrary to the public good? Would he be bound to sacrifice his own opinion? Or will not the vote of a representative contrary to his instruction be as binding on the people as a different one? If these things are true, where is the right of the constituent to instruct? or where is the advantage to result from it? It must either supercede all other obligations, the most sacred; or it can be of no benefit to the people. The gentleman says, the people are the sovereign; but who are the people? Is every small district the PEOPLE? And can the inhabitants of this district express the voice of the people, when they may not be a thousandth part, and all their instructions may contradict the sense of the whole people besides? Have the people in detached assemblies a right to violate the constitution or controul the whole sovereign power? This would be setting up an hundred sovereignties in the place of one.

Mr. SMITH (S. C.) was opposed to the motion: The doctrine of instructions would, in practice, operate partially: The States near the seat of government will have an obvious advantage over those remote from it: There is no necessity for so large a representation as has been determined on, if the members are to be guided in all their deliberations by positive instructions; one member from a State will serve every purpose; but then the nature of the assembly will be changed from a legislative to a diplomatic body: It would in fact be turning all our representatives into ambassadors.

Mr. STONE observed that to adopt this motion would change the nature of the constitution; instead of being a representative government, it would be a singular kind of democracy; in which, whenever a question arises, what is the law? It will not be determined by recurring to the codes and institutions of Congress, but by collecting the various instructions from different parts of the Union.

Mr. GERRY observed that several of the States had proposed this amendment, which rendered it proper to be attended to: In answer to Mr. Madison's query he said, he meant that instructions should be consistent with the laws and the constitution.

Mr. LIVERMORE said that though no particular districts could instruct, yet the Legislatures of the States most undoubtedly possessed this right.

This assertion of Mr. LIVERMORE was controverted by several gentlemen—by Mr. SEDGWICK, Mr. SMITH, Mr. AMES, and Mr. WADSWORTH: The last, speaking on the subject of instructions in general, said, I never knew merely political instructions to be observed; and I never knew a representative brought to an account for it: But I have known representatives follow instructions, contrary to their private sentiments, and they have ever been despised for it. Others have disregarded their instructions, and have been re-elected, and caressed. Now if the *people* considered it as an inherent right in *them* to instruct their representatives, they would undoubtedly have punished the violation of such instructions; but this I believe has never been the case. I consider the measure as having a mischievous tendency.

The debate was continued much longer, but in a desultory way, as the speakers appeared to take it for granted, that they might touch upon collateral circumstances. The question on the motion being at length taken, it was negatived by a larg majority; and then the committee agreed to the amendment in its original form.

The committee rose and the chairman reported progress.

Mr. AMES introduced a motion that all questions on amendments should be determined in committee, by two thirds of the members. Laid on the table. *Adjourned.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 17.

In committee of the whole on the subject of amendments to the Constitution.

The 6th and 7th amendments were agreed to without alteration.

In the 8th, on motion of Mr. LAURANCE, after the words "nor shall" these words were inserted, *in any criminal cases* The 9th was adopted without alteration. In the 10th, on motion of Mr. BENSON, after the words "and effects" these words were inserted, *against unreasonable searches and seizures.*" 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th, were agreed to in their original form. The committee then rose, and the house adjourned.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18.

The committee appointed to bring in a bill to regulate the Post-Office, brought in a resolve, which, with the Preamble, was to the following effect, That as the shortness of the time previous to the adjournment would not admit of making the necessary arrangements, therefore *Resolved*, that the POST MASTER GENERAL be directed to continue the Post Office upon the system established by the late Congress, and that he be authorised to make the necessary contracts, &c.

Mr. GERRY introduced a motion upon the subject of amendments, to this purport, That such amendments to the Constitution of the United States as have been proposed by the different States, which are not in the report of the select committee, be referred to a committee of the whole house—and that those, with the amendments proposed by that committee, be included in one report. This motion was introduced by a lengthy speech upon the subject of amendments at large, and was seconded by Mr. SUMPTER —This brought on a warm debate, which continued till near one o'clock—when the question being called for from various parts of the house, the AYES and NOES were required by Mr. GERRY. Upon which Mr. VINING called for the previous question, and the Ayes and Noes were then required upon that also—this occasioned a further debate—at length the Speaker directed the Clerk to call the Ayes and Noes on *Shall the main question be put?*

NOES.

Messrs *Ames, Baldwin, Benson, Boudinot, Brown, Cadwallader, Carrol, Clymer, Fitzsimons, Foster, Gilman, Goodhue, Hartley, Heister, Huntington, Laurance, Lee, Madison, Moore, P. Muhlenberg, Partridge, Schureman, Scot, Sedgwick, Seney, Sylvester, Sinnickson, Smith, (S. C.) Smith, (M.) Thatcher, Trumbull, Vining, Wadsworth, Wynkoop.* 34.

AYES.

Messrs *Burke, Coles, Floyd, Gerry, Griffin, Grout, Hathorn, Livermore, Page, Parker, Van Ranssellaer, Sherman, Stone, Sturgis, Sumpter, Tucker.* 16. Majority 18.

The House then went into a committee of the whole on the report of the select committee.

The five remaining amendments were agreed to by the committee, with some little variation. They then rose, and the chairman reported their proceedings, which, it was ordered should lie on the table for the consideration of the members.

A message was received by the senate by their secretary, informing the house that they had concurred with one amendment; in the bill to provide for the necessary expences attending negociations, and treating with the Indian tribes, &c.

The proposed amendment was, to strike out "Forty," and insert *twenty*, which would make the provision for the expences twenty thousand instead of forty thousand dollars.

Mr. TUCKER presented a number of papers containing seventeen proposed amendments to the constitution; which were read and laid on the table.

The committee on the subject of the disputed election of the members from NEW-JERSEY, brought in a report containing a state of facts respecting said election, which was read, and then the house adjourned.

☞ *Some account of the Debates of 17th and 18th instant, shall appear in our next.*

CHARLESTON, (S. C.) JULY 11.

The commissioners appointed by the British government, to enquire into and ascertain the claims of the American loyalists, have finally determined, that no compensation shall be allowed for alledged losses on mortgages, bonds and book debts, because those debts are recoverable by the treaty of peace; so that if a loyalist was possessed of a real estate, which the commissioners allowed to be worth 2000l. mortgages, bonds, and debts, 5000l. but owed the subjects of the United States 3000l. in common justice there would be a balance in his favour 4000l. but the amount of what he owes being 1000l. more than the value of his real estate, and nothing being allowed for his personal estate, in fact, in such an instance the loyalist will be left 1000l. worse than nothing.

BALTIMORE, AUGUST 11.

On Saturday the 1st inst. there happened at Carlisle "the most violent hurricane, tempest or thunder-storm" that was ever known in that borough, by which the Presbyterian church, and other public buildings, with the Rev. Mr. Davidson's new brick house, and several other private buildings, were unroofed, and otherways much damaged.

PHILADELPHIA, AUG. 12.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Lettsom, *of London, to a friend of his in this city, dated March 6.*

"I approve the zeal expressed in thy letter, for the promotion of universal liberty. When I came of age, I found my property consisted in slaves, to whom I gave freedom, and left myself penny-less, this sacrifice I have never repented of. I did this act of enfranchisement from no advice whatever, but from the internal impulse of humanity, and a conviction on my mind, that the surest path to heaven was in doing to others as we would that others should do to us. I sincerely wish you and us success in softening the chains of slavery, and lessening the weight of the links, and by degrees we shall break them asunder.

The Trustees and Faculty of the College of Philadelphia have, by diploma, granted the degree of Doctor in Divinity, to the Rev. *Robert Smith*, Rector of St. Paul's and Principal of Charleston College, in South Carolina; the Rev. *Edward Bass*, Rector of St. Paul's, Newburyport, and Bishop elect of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the States of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire; and the Rev. *Samuel Parker*, Rector of Trinity Church, Boston.

PORTSMOUTH, AUGUST 8.

A letter from Bengal, has the following curious particulars:—"At Oude, near Fyzabad, in the province of Bengal, is a tomb of SETH, (*Adam*'s third son) twelve feet long.

"SUJAH DOWLAH's father repaired the tomb and of JOB's adjoining it. Not more than a mile from those tombs, is a fragment of NOAH's Ark; perhaps by examining the wood, whether of Sak, or Teke, it might be ascertained whereabouts it was built, or discover a timber for ship-building, more durable than either of those."

NEW YORK, AUGUST 19.

Seventeen amendments, multiplied by *fifty-nine* (the number of members in a certain assembly) give a product of *one thousand and three*—If constitutions can be made perfect by amendments, what a blessed chance has the constitution of the United States!

The General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church met at Philadelphia, July 23th, and adjourned August 8th, to meet again at the same place, September 29.

We are informed that the greatest harmony pervades that respectable body: And that among other business, they have formally recognized Dr. SEABURY's consecration, which act they have communicated to him. It is expected he will meet the Convention in September.—That the churches to the eastward have wrote to each of our Bishops requesting them jointly to consecrate the Rev. Dr. Bass of Massachusetts *Bishop*, as soon as convenient. And that as the convention is not broke up, the Clergy from the Carolinas, &c. will remain at Philadelphia till the meeting in September.

Boston papers by last night's post say that—The Hon. Mr. LINCOLN, collector of Boston district has appointed JOHN RICE, Esq. deputy collector—Mr. WILLIAM SHATTUCK and PATRICK PHELON, Esq. weighers and gangers—and Mr. JONAS CLARK MINOT, inspector for that district.

Mr. CALEB BLODGET, merchant of Boston; who was an officer in the late continental army, was unfortunately drowned in Boston harbor, last week—his death is most sincerely regreted as a loss to the community of an amiable and worthy character.

DEATHS.

On Sunday last died, Master GEORGE WASHINGTON KNOX, youngest son to the Hon. *Gen. Knox*, Secretary at War.

"*Early, bright, transient as the morning dew,*
"*He sparkled, was exhal'd and went to Heaven.*"

Yesterday died Major JOHN LUCAS, an officer of distinction in the Georgia line of the late American army, and treasurer of the State Society of the Cincinnati of that state. His remains will, this afternoon be interred in St. *Paul's* Church-yard, attended by the State Society of the Cincinnati of New-York, and a detachment of Col. *Bauman's* artillery. He bore a tedious and lingering decay with all that fortitude which his character as a soldier was strongly marked with.

Citizens of Georgia, and friends of the deceased in New-York, are requested to attend his funeral at five o'clock this afternoon, from Mrs. *Sebring's*, No. 63, corner of Crown street, Broad-Way.

☞ *The members of the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati are particularly requested to attend the funeral of the late Major* LUCAS *of Georgia, this afternoon, precisely at 4 o'clock, at the City Tavern. Those members of other State Societies, now in this city, are also invited on the occasion.* By Order of the President.

August 19th. JOHN STAGG, jun. Sec'ry

Saturday, Brig Patty, Malliby, St. Thoms's, 13 days.
Schooner Hope, Clark, Cape-Francois, 11 days.
Sunday, Sloop Ranger, Raisbeck, St. Johns, 14 days.
Schooner Nelly, Mc Neil, Barbadoes, 17 days.
Sloop Elizabeth, Muffin, Turks-Island, 13 days.
Monday, Sloop Two Friends, Smith, Alexandria, 4 days.
Schooner N York Packet, Barnard, Boston, 8 days.

The *Right* CONSTITUTION *of a* COMMONWEALTH EXAMINED.

[Continued from No. 33.]

IT is agreed, that "if any be never ſo good a patriot," (whether his power be prolonged or not) "he will find it hard to keep ſelf from creeping in upon him, and prompting him to ſome extravagancies for his own private benefit." But it is aſſerted, that power will be prolonged in the hands of the ſame patriot, the ſame rich, able, powerful, and well-deſcended citizen, &c. as much as if he had a ſeat for life, or an hereditary ſeat in a ſenate, and, what is more deſtructive, his power and influence is conſtantly increaſing, ſo that ſelf is more certainly and rapidly growing upon him; whereas, in the other caſe, it is defined, limited, and never materially varies. If, in the firſt caſe, "he be ſhortly "to return to a condition common with the reſt of his brethren," it is only for a moment, or a day, or a week, in order to be re-elected with freſh eclat, redoubled popularity, increaſed reputation, influence, and power. Self-intereſt, therefore, binds him to propagate a falſe report and opinion, that he "does nothing "but what is juſt and equal," while in fact he is every day doing what is unjuſt and unequal; while he is applying all the offices of the ſtate, great and ſmall, the revenues of the public, and even the judicial power, to the augmentation of his own wealth and honors, and thoſe of his friends, and to the puniſhment, depreſſion and deſtruction of his enemies, with the acclamations and hoſannas of the majority of the people.

"This, without controverſy, muſt needs be the moſt noble, "the moſt juſt, and the moſt excellent way of government in "free ſtates," provided our author meant only a mixed ſtate, in which the people have an eſſential ſhare, and the command of the public purſe, with the judgment of cauſes and accuſations as jurors, while the power is tempered and controuled by the ariſtocratical part of the community in another houſe, and the executive in a diſtinct branch. But as it is plain his meaning was to jumble all theſe powers in one centre, a ſingle aſſembly of repreſentatives, it muſt be pronounced the moſt ignoble, unjuſt, and deteſtable form of government; worſe than even a well-digeſted ſimple monarchy or ariſtocracy. The greateſt excellency of it is, that it cannot laſt, but haſtens rapidly to a revolution.

For a further illuſtration of this ſubject, let a ſuppoſition be made, that in the year 1656, when this book was printed, the ſyſtem of it had been reduced to practice: A fair, full, and juſt repreſentation of the people of England appears in the houſe of commons in Weſtminſter-hall; my lord General Cromwell is returned for Weſtminſter or London; Ireton, Lambert, &c. for other principal cities or counties; Monk, Sir Henry Vane, &c. for others; and even Hugh Peters for ſome borough;—all eyes profoundly bow to my lord general as the firſt member of the houſe; the other principal characters are but his primary planets, and the multitude but ſecondary; altogether making a great majority in the intereſt of his highneſs: If the majority is clear, and able to excite a ſtrong current of popular rumours, ardor, and enthuſiaſm, in their favour, their power will increaſe with every annual election, until Cromwell governs the nation more abſolutely than any ſimple monarch in Europe. If there are in the houſe any members ſo daring as to differ in opinion, they will loſe their ſeats, and more ſubmiſſive characters be returned in their places; but if the great men in the houſe ſhould fall into pretty equal diviſions, then would begin a warfare of envy, rancor, hatred, and abuſe of each other, until they divided the nation into two parties, and both muſt take the field.—Suppoſe, for a further illuſtration, the monarchical and ariſtocratical branches in England ſuſpended, and all authority lodged in the preſent houſe of commons;—ſuppoſe that, in addition to all the great national queſtion of legiſlation, were added the promotion of all offices in the church, the law, the army, navy, exciſe, cuſtoms, and all queſtions of foreign alliance; let all the foreign ambaſſadors, as well as candidates for offices, ſolicit there:—The contemplation muſt be amuſing! but there is not a member of the houſe could ſeriouſly wiſh it, after thinking a moment on the conſequence. The objects are ſmaller, and the preſent temptations leſs, in our American houſes; but the impropriety would be equally obvious, though perhaps not ſo inſtantaneouſly deſtructive.

Our author proceeds to prove his doctrine by examples out of the Roman hiſtory. "What more noble patriots were there "ever in the world than the Roman ſenators were, while they "were kept under by their kings, and felt the ſame burthens of "their fury, as did the reſt of the people?"

If by the patriots are meant men who were brave and active in war to defend the commonwealth againſt its enemies, the Roman ſenators and patricians were, under the kings, as good patriots as the plebeians were, and no better. Whether they were ever kept under by their kings, or whether their kings were kept under by them, I ſubmit to Livy and Dionyſius. The whole line of their kings, Romulus, Numa, Tullus, Ancus, Lucius Tarquinus, Servius Tullius, were meritorious princes; yet the patricians and ſenators maintained a continual ſeries of cabals againſt them, conſtantly conſpiring to ſet up one, and pull down another. Romulus was put to death by the patricians; Tullus Hoſtilius was murdered by the patricians; Lucius Tarquinius was aſſaſſinated by the patricians; and Servius Tullius too was murdered by the patricians, to make way for Tarquin. Some of theſe excellent princes were deſtroyed for being too friendly to the people, and others for not being ſervile enough to the ſenate. If it is patriotiſm to perſecute to death every prince who has an equitable deſire of doing juſtice, and eaſing the burthens of the plebeians; to intrigue in continual factions to ſet up one king and butcher another; to conſider friendſhip, and humanity, and equity, to the plebeians as treaſon againſt the ſtate, and the higheſt crime that could be committed either by a king or patrician; then the Roman ſenators under the kings were noble patriots. But the utmoſt degrees of jealouſy, envy, arrogance, ambition, rancor, rage, and cruelty, that ever conſtituted the ariſtocratical or oligarchical character in Sparta, Venice, Poland, or where ever unbalanced ariſtocratics have exiſted and been moſt enormous, exiſted in the Roman patricians under their kings.

What can our author mean by the ſenate and people's "feeling the burthens of the fury of their kings?" Surely he had read the Roman hiſtory! Did he mean to repreſent it? The whole line of Roman kings, until we come to Tarquin the Proud, were mild, moderate princes, and their greateſt fault, in the eyes of the ſenators, was their endeavor now and then to protect the people againſt the tyranny of the ſenate. Their greateſt fault, in the judgment of truth, was too much complaiſance to the ſenate, by making the conſtitution more ariſtocratical: Witneſs the aſſemblies by centuries inſtituted by Servius Tullius.

But Nedham ſhould have conſidered what would have been the fruits in Rome, from the time of Romulus, of annual elections of ſenators to be veſted with ſupreme power, with all the authority of the king, ſenate, and people. All thoſe perſons whoſe whoſe names we now read as kings, and all thoſe who are mentioned as ſenators, would have caballed with the people as well as one another. Their paſſions would have been extinguiſhed; the ſame jealouſy and envy, ambition and avarice, revenge and cruelty, would have been diſplayed in aſſemblies of the people: ſometimes one junto would have been popular, ſometimes another; one ſet of principles would have prevailed one year, and another the next; now one law, then another; at this time one rule of property, at that another; riots, tumults, and battles, would have been faught continually; the law would have been a perfect Proteus. But as this confuſion could not laſt long, either a ſimple monarchy, or an ariſtocracy, muſt have ariſen; theſe might not have laſted long, and all the revolutions deſcribed by Plato and Ariſtotle as growing out of one another, and that we ſee in the Greek, Roman, and Italian republics, did grow out of one another, muſt have taken place, until the people weary of change, would have ſettled under a ſingle tyranny and ſtanding army, unleſs they had been wiſe enough to eſtabliſh a well-ordered government of three branches. It is eaſy to miſrepreſent and confound things in order to make them anſwer a purpoſe, but it was not becauſe the authority was *permanent*, or *ſtanding*, or *hereditary*, that the behaviour of the ſenate was worſe after the expulſion of the kings than it had been under them; for the dignity of patricians and the authority of ſenators, was equally *ſtanding*, *permanent*, and *hereditary*, under the kings, from the inſtitution of Romulus to the expulſion of Tarquin, as it was afterwards, from the expulſion of Tarquin to the inſtitution of tribunes, and indeed to the ſubverſion of the commonwealth. It was not it *permanency*, but its *omnipotence* its being *unlimtted*, *unbalanced*, *uncontrouled*, that occaſioned the abuſe; and this is preciſely what we contended for, that power is always abuſed when unlimited and unbalanced, whether it be permanent or temporary, a diſtinction that makes little difference in effect. The temporary has often been the worſt of the two, becauſe it has often been ſooner abuſed, and more groſsly, in order to obtain its revival at the ſtated period. It is agreed that patricians nobles, ſenators, the ariſtocratical part of the community, call it by what name you pleaſe, are noble patriots when they are kept under; they are really then the beſt men and the beſt citizens: But there is no poſſibility of keeping them under but by giving them a maſter in a monarchy, and two maſters in a free government. One of the maſters I mean is the executive power in the firſt magiſtrate, and the other of the people in the houſe of repreſentatives. Under theſe two maſters they are, in general, the beſt men, citizens, magiſtrates, generals, or other officers; they are the guardians, ornaments, and glory of the community. *(To be continued.)*

MR. FENNO,

I wiſh the minds of the Americans to be unfettered, and muſt therefore requeſt you and the printers in this country to publiſh the following extracts from the "Diverſions of Purley," *which is almoſt the only treatiſe on our language that unfolds its true principles.*

"DR. LOWTH, when he undertook to write his Introduction, with the beſt intention in the world, moſt aſſuredly ſinned againſt his better judgment: for he begins moſt judiciouſly thus—"Univerſal Grammar explains the principles "which are common to all languages. The "Grammar of any particular language, applies "thoſe common principles to that particular lan-"guage." And yet with this clear truth before his eyes, he boldly proceeds to give a *particular* grammar, without being himſelf poſſeſſed of one ſingle principle of *univerſal* Grammar. Again he ſays, "the connective parts of ſentences are the "moſt important of all"; after which he proceeds to his examples of the proper and improper uſe of theſe connectives—without having the moſt diſtant notion of the meaning of the words whoſe employment he undertakes to ſettle. The conſequence was unavoidable, that having no reaſonable rule to go by, and no opponent ſignification to direct him, he was compelled to truſt his own fanciful taſte, and the uncertain authority of others, and has conſequently approved and condemned without truth or reaſon." page 284 note.

"Johnſon's merit ought not to be denied to him; but his Dictionary is the moſt imperfect and faulty, and the leaſt valuable of any of his productions; and that ſhare of merit which it poſſeſſed, makes it by ſo much the more hurtful. It muſt be confeſſed that his Grammar and Hiſtory and Dictionary of what he calls the Engliſh language, are, in all reſpects, except the bulk of the latter, moſt truly contemptible performances; and a reproach to the learning and induſtry of a nation, which could receive them with the ſlighteſt approbation.

Nearly one third of this Dictionary is as much the language of the Hottentots as of the Engliſh; and it would be no difficult matter, ſo to tranſlate any one of the plaineſt and moſt popular numbers of the Spectator into the language of that Dictionary, that no mere Engliſhman, tho well read in his own language, would be able to comprehend one ſentence of it. page 267.

"Harris defines a *word* to be a "*ſound ſignificant*;" then he defines conjunctions to be "*words*, (that is, *ſounds ſignificant) devoid of ſignification.*" Afterwards he allows that they have "*a kind of ſignification.*" Mr. Harris goes farther, and ſays, they are a "*kind of middle beings*" (he muſt mean between ſignification and no ſignification) "*ſharing the attributes of both*" (that is, of ſignification and no ſignification) "*and conducing to link both together,*" (that is, ſignification and no ſignification.) "His definition of *propoſition* is juſt as ridiculous. Yet this is a ſpecimen of what Lowth calls the moſt perfect example of Analyſis, that has been given ſince the days of Ariſtotle." page 165.

Theſe charges, however ſevere, are doubtleſs juſt. Harris has publiſhed a volume called Hermes, in which he does little more than endeavor to prove that our Gothic forefathers 2000 years ago, were as great philoſophers as Plato and Ariſtotle. The time will come when the philological treatiſes of theſe authors will be numbered with the monkiſh volumes of ſcholaſtic theology, and thrown among the rubbiſh of literature. But what then? If common ſenſe ſhould get the better of theſe abſurd ſyſtems, new coxcombs and new pedants will ſtart ſome others equally abſurd and make proſelytes to them. While we have pretended philoſophers who can ſeriouſly attempt to to prove that the earth was once covered with a cruſt, which was burſt at the flood and tumbled into mountains—while they can calmly try to perſuade us that the whole ſyſtem of worlds which we ſee is ſurrounded with a ſhell of braſs or copper—and while very learned men dare to believe that mankind once had tails, and went on all fours—I ſay while our preſſes teem with ſuch ſtuff as this, we are not to be ſurpriſed that grave doctors and right reverends ſhould think ſavages capable of inventing words without meaning, and arranging them as eight diſtinct parts of ſpeech.

SIXTH *ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE UNION.*

An ACT *to eſtabliſh an* EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *to be denominated the* DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America in Congreſs aſſembled,* That there ſhall be an executive department, to be denominated the Department of War; and that there ſhall be a principal officer therein, to be called the Secretary for the department of war, who ſhall perform and execute ſuch duties as ſhall from time to time be enjoined on, or entruſted to him by the Preſident of the United States, agreeable to the Conſtitution, relative to military commiſſions, or to the land or naval forces, ſhips, or warlike ſtores of the United States, or to ſuch other matters reſpecting military or naval affairs, as the Preſident of the United States ſhall aſſign to the ſaid department, or relative to the granting of lands to perſons entitled thereto, for military ſervices rendered to the United States, or relative to Indian affairs: AND FURTHERMORE, That the ſaid principal officer ſhall conduct the buſineſs of the ſaid department in ſuch manner, as the Preſident of the United States ſhall from time to time order or inſtruct.

And be it further enacted, That there ſhall be in the ſaid department, an inferior officer, to be appointed by the ſaid principal officer, to be employed therein as he ſhall deem proper and to be called the Chief Clerk in the department of war, and who, whenever the ſaid principal officer ſhall be removed from office by the Preſident of the United States, or in any other caſe of vacancy, ſhall during ſuch vacancy, have the charge, and cuſtody of all records, books, and papers, appertaining to the ſaid department.

And be it further enacted, That the ſaid principal officer, and every other perſon to be appointed or employed in the ſaid department, ſhall, before he enters on the execution of this office or employment, take an oath or affirmation well and faithfully to execute the truſt committed to him.

And be it further enacted, That the Secretary for the department of war, to be appointed in conſequence of this act, ſhall forthwith after his appointment, be entitled to have the cuſtody and charge of all records, books, and papers in the office of Secretary for the department of war, heretofore eſtabliſhed by the United States in Congreſs aſſembled.

F. A. MUHLENBERG, *Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.*
JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-Preſident of the United States, and Preſident of the Senate.*

APPROVED, AUGUST 7, 1789.
GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Preſident of the United States.*

SEVENTH *ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE UNION.*

An ACT *for the eſtabliſhment and ſupport of* LIGHT-HOUSES, BEACONS, BUOYS, *and* PUBLIC PIERS.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America in Congreſs aſſembled,* That all expences which ſhall accrue from and after the fifteenth day of Auguſt one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-nine, in the neceſſary ſupport, maintenance, and repairs of all light-houſes, beacons, buoys, and public piers erected, placed, or ſunk before the paſſing of this act, at the entrance of, or within any bay, inlet, harbour, or port of the United States, for rendering the navigation thereof eaſy and ſafe, ſhall be defrayed out of the Treaſury of the United States: PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, That none of the ſaid expences ſhall continue to be ſo defrayed by the United States, after the expiration of one year from the day aforeſaid, unleſs ſuch light-houſes, beacons, buoys, and public piers, ſhall in the mean time be ceded to, and veſted in the United States, by the State or States reſpectively in which the ſame may be, together with the lands and tenements thereunto belonging, and together with the juriſdiction of the ſame.

And be it further enacted, That a light-houſe ſhall be erected near the entrance of the Cheſapeake-Bay, at ſuch place, when ceded to the United States in manner aforeſaid, as the Preſident of the United States ſhall direct.

And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treaſury to provide by contracts which ſhall be approved by the Preſident of the United States, for building a light-houſe near the entrance of Cheſapeake-Bay, and for rebuilding when neceſſary, and keeping in good repair, the light-houſes, beacons, buoys, and publick piers in the ſeveral States, and for furniſhing the ſame with all neceſſary ſupplies, and alſo to agree for the ſalaries, wages, or hire of the perſon or perſons appointed by the Preſident, for the ſuperintendance and care of the ſame.

And be it further enacted, That all pilots in the bays, inlets, rivers, harbours, and ports of the United States, ſhall continue to be regulated in conformity with the exiſting laws of the States reſpectively wherein ſuch pilots may be, or with ſuch laws as the States may reſpectively hereafter enact for the purpoſe, until further legiſlative proviſion ſhall be made by Congreſs.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.
JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-Preſident of the United States, and Preſident of the Senate.*

APPROVED, AUGUST 7, 1789.
GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Preſident of the United States.*